

REMARKS

This RCE amendment is prepared in response to the final Office action (Paper No. 20050930) mailed on 12 October 2005 and the Advisory Action Paper No. 20051213) mailed December 21, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 by this amendment.

In Paper Nos. 20051213 and 20050930, the Examiner repeated and finalized the rejection of Paper No. 20050616 for each of Applicant's 20 claims. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 by this amendment making these rejections moot.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 14 prior to amendment vis-a-vis the Examiner's comments of Paper No. 20051213, Applicant has the following comments:

In paragraph 1 of Paper No. 20051213, the Examiner argues that the presence of more than one flange to base 221 of Matsuoka is not evidence of the Examiner being contradictory. Applicant submits that part 222a of Matsuoka is the flange of base 221 at the upper edge of base 221. Because of this, Applicant submits that it is impossible to also say that the upper part of part 230 of Matsuoka is also a flange at the upper edge of base 221.

In paragraph 2 of Paper No. 20051213, the Examiner argued that the upper part 230 of Matsuoka is in deed at the upper edge of the base 221 because "upper" means higher in

physical position". Applicant submits that the Examiner is taking Applicant's claim language out of context as it is the word "edge" in Applicant's claims that is qualified by the word "upper". And because of this, the upper part of 230 in Matsuoka is not located at the upper edge of base 221 and thus cannot be considered to be a flange of base 221 because a flange is defined to be at an edge.

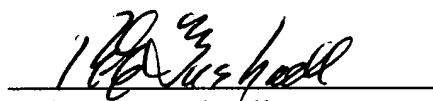
In paragraph 3 of Paper No. 20051213, the Examiner persists in his assertion that Matsuoka a hole in the upper part of 230. The Examiner states that FIG. 2 of Matsuoka omits the holes for the purpose of simplicity. Applicant submits that the problem is that nowhere in Matsuoka is there an illustration of the holes in the upper part of 230. The Examiner continues to persist that there are holes in this upper part of part 230 when there is no teaching, either by words or by an illustration in Matsuoka of the holes in the upper part of 230.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 by this amendment to emphasize that the flange and the base are of a single body. Entry of this amendment and favorable examination are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are patentable over the cited references, taken either alone or combination and accordingly should now be in a conditions suitable for allowance.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. E. Bushnell", is written over a horizontal line.

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